

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-36 (canceled).

Claims 37 (canceled).

Claims 38-41 (canceled).

Claim 42 (canceled).

Claims 43-72 (canceled).

Claim 73 (previously presented). A composition for assisting in the removal of human cerumen from the external ear canal, comprising about 0.5% to about 15% w/v sodium bicarbonate, about 50 AU/ml to about 500 AU/ml methyl trypsin, about 1% to about 20% w/v glycerin, about 0.001% to about 0.1% w/v benzalkonium chloride, and water, said composition having a pH of about 7.5 to about 9.0;

wherein the composition is configured for, upon location within the ear canal, digesting human cerumen located within the ear canal.

Claim 74 (previously presented). The composition of claim 73 further comprising about 0.1% to about 8% w/v sodium citrate.2H₂O and about 0.05% to about 1% w/v nonionic surfactant selected from poly(oxyethylene)-poly(oxypropylene) block copolymers and mixtures thereof.

Claim 75 (previously presented). The composition of claim 73 comprising about 5% w/v sodium bicarbonate, about 200 AU/ml methyl trypsin, about 7% w/v glycerin, and about 0.01% w/v benzalkonium chloride.

Claim 76 (previously presented). The composition of claim 75 further comprising about

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3% w/v sodium citrate.2H₂O and about 0.25% w/v nonionic surfactant selected from poly(oxyethylene)-poly(oxypropylene) block copolymers and mixtures thereof.

Claim 77 (previously presented). The composition of claim 75 wherein said composition has a pH of about 8.0 to about 8.3.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The composition of claim 73 wherein the combination of methyl trypsin and sodium bicarbonate exhibits synergy in digesting cerumen.